

Department of Human Services

Articles in Today's Clips Wednesday, July 19, 2006

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Mother arrested in connection with 3-year-old's death

Police confirm that Kayla Joplin died from unnatural causes

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

BY AMALIE NASH
Ann Arbor News Staff Reporter

A 3-year-old girl who was unconscious and not breathing when medical workers were called to her Ypsilanti Township home Monday died a short time later at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital.

By Tuesday, authorities said her death resulted from internal injuries and arrested her mother, who is expected to be arraigned on charges today in connection with the girl's death.

Washtenaw County Sheriff's Cmdr. Dave Egeler said 3-year-old Kayla Joplin died from trauma, but he would not release the cause of death. He said a weapon was not involved.

A call for help brought firefighters and paramedics to Dover Place Town Houses in the 500 block of Villa Drive at 4:20 a.m. Monday. Huron Valley Ambulance spokeswoman Joyce Williams said a neighbor placed the call, but information was not available Tuesday about who was inside the residence when emergency personnel arrived.

Egeler said the mother, whose name was not released, also has an 8-year-old son who was not home at the time. He said he did not know if police had been called to the residence in the past.

Ypsilanti Township Fire Chief Lawrence Morabito said he could not release any details of Monday's incident, citing federal health-care privacy laws.

An autopsy on the toddler's body was performed Monday, but police only said it confirmed that Kayla died from unnatural causes. Medical Examiner Bader Cassin could not be reached Tuesday.

A next-door neighbor said Tuesday he did not know the family and knew nothing of the child's death. Another neighbor said she keeps to herself and also didn't know the family.

Egeler said police expect to release additional details of their investigation at the arraignment today.

News staff reporter Tracy Davis contributed to this report.

Lansing State Journal

July 19, 2006

Woman sentenced in tot's killing

FLINT - A woman who pleaded guilty but mentally ill to second-degree murder after the suffocation death of her 2-year-old daughter has been sentenced to 20 to 30 years in prison.

Lyah Drayton died at her home Nov. 29, 2004. Brenda Drayton told authorities she suffocated Lyah because the girl was the child of satan.

Forensic officials found Drayton criminally responsible even though she was diagnosed as bipolar and is mildly retarded. Lyah was Drayton's second child to die. A 6-week-old infant died of dehydration and malnutrition in 1995.

- From staff and wire reports

Parents blamed for baby's broken bones

Infant son in critical condition with brain trauma

PUBLISHED: July 18, 2006

By Norb Franz
Macomb Daily Staff Writer

A Warren couple is accused of causing the injuries -- including several broken bones -- that have left their infant son in critical condition.

Andre Wilson, 30, and his wife Jamila, 28, were arraigned Monday on a charge of first-degree child abuse in a case involving their only child, Jacob Wilson.

Warren detectives said the boy was in the care and custody of his parents when they brought him to Henry Ford Medical Center in Sterling Heights on July 1, when Jacob was 4 weeks old. The infant was taken by ambulance to William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak for severe brain trauma, fractures of his upper left arm, upper left leg and five ribs, and a detached left retina, police said.

Doctors conducted a procedure to relieve pressure on Jacob's brain and said the injuries were the result of assault and Shaken Baby Syndrome, police said.

The attorney representing the accused couple challenged that medical assessment, calling it "dead wrong."

"And when I say dead wrong, I mean dead wrong," attorney Elbert Hatchett said. "There was never any abuse. They would never do anything to harm this child."

At the couple's arraignment before 37th District Judge Walter Jakubowski, Hatchett claimed the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office acted in a retaliatory "and somewhat vindictive" manner by charging both parents because he previously advised his clients to not talk to investigators. When Hatchett requested the judge set a personal bond for the accused mother and father, the judge cut him off.

During a heated exchange, Jakubowski told Hatchett, "I've heard

enough ... If you want to argue the case, you wait till trial."

Jakubowski set bond for each parent at \$25,000 cash or surety and prohibited them from having any contact with their son. That order prompted tears from Jamila Wilson.

A preliminary hearing in the case is scheduled for July 27.

When asked by a reporter about the cause of Jacob's injuries, Hatchett said he could not speculate.

Jacob's condition has stabilized, but he remains in the hospital's neonatal intensive care unit.

First-degree child abuse is a felony punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

Family members of the accused couple described Andre and Jamila Wilson as doting new parents who married almost a year ago.

"My faith and confidence is they'll both be exonerated," said the Rev. Andrew Wilson, Jacob's paternal grandfather.

"They love their baby," said Diane Wilson, Andre Wilson's mother. Mrs. Wilson, who described herself as a registered nurse, said her son and daughter-in-law emphasized to relatives the proper way to hold an infant, and to wash their own hands before doing so.

Relatives said the couple met approximately 12 years ago at Word of Faith Christian Center in Southfield. Andre Wilson holds a degree in theology and assists his father at River of Life Ministries in Pontiac. He formerly worked as a manager at Wal-Mart and is currently employed by Consumers Energy, Hatchett said.

Jamila Wilson works for the American Red Cross on blood drives.

Neither she nor her husband has a prior criminal record, their attorney said. Both turned themselves in to police Monday when advised that prosecutors had authorized the charge.

While child abuse cases are not rare to Warren detectives, investigators said the nature of Jacob's injuries to a child his age are particularly disturbing.

Macomb County Prosecutor Eric Smith could not be reached for comment.

Not buying tale of woe

FLINT JOURNAL LETTER TO THE EDITOR

LAPEER TOWNSHIP

THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

JOURNAL READER

Are we supposed to feel sorry for Rose Kelly's mom ["Rose's mom 'has given up - lost everything," July 15, Page A1]? I think not. What she had done, or in this case not done, is despicable. Many people are poor, but their children's heads don't crawl with lice and they don't live with dog feces in the house.

Shame on the grandparents who knew of the deplorable conditions that their grandchildren were living in. Shame on the teachers who did not pay closer attention and ask questions. Shame on the neighbors who watched these poor children peak out the windows but never inquired about them, and shame on social services. A lot of people are to blame, but most of all Michelle Bowen and whoever the man in the house was. They should spend the rest of their miserable lives behind bars and never see the faces of their other children again. Maybe they will be lucky enough to be adopted by someone who can give them a chance at a real home.

Pamela Ford

Lapeer Township

Holland couple out of jail in Texas

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

By John Tunison
The Grand Rapids Press

A Holland couple accused of killing their infant daughter -- and mistakenly sent to Texas to face a possible death penalty -- are planning a reunion with their 3-year-old girl after they were released from jail Tuesday.

A Texas judge released Esther and Cipriano Gonzales IV from the Hays County Jail in San Marcos on bond, four months after they were locked up. They are still facing murder charges, but their release came after a court victory.

"I just had faith in God," said Cipriano Gonzales' father, Cipriano III, who lives in the San Marcos area. "I just knew they would get out."

The Gonzaleses are accused of causing the March 11 death of their 2-month-old daughter, Cynthea, shortly after they moved from Holland to San Marcos, Texas.

After Cynthea's death, they returned to Michigan for her funeral and were arrested here on fugitive charges March 17.

In late May, they were mistakenly released from the Ottawa County Jail to a prisoner transport company for transfer to Texas before their scheduled extradition hearing, causing more controversy.

Cipriano Gonzales III said the long incarceration -- they missed their daughter's funeral -- has been a strain on the young couple. His son recently alleged he was assaulted in the Hays County Jail by gang members.

"The due process failed. It was just horrible," he said.

The couple, both 23, plan to stay at his father's home in the near term, although their bond allows them to leave Texas. The couple is arranging for a reunion with their daughter, Skyli, who is staying with Esther's mother in Holland.

"That has been the No. 1 thing -- to see their daughter," the elder Gonzales said.

Mary Loreda, who has cared for Skyli since the couple first was jailed, said the 3-year-old has held up well, but misses her parents.

"We haven't talked about it too much, but she says she wants her mommy and daddy," Loreda said. "We're just real happy that the judge saw that this was a mistake."

The Gonzalezes have maintained their baby simply stopped breathing as they tried to feed her a bottle. They took her to Central Texas Medical Center three days before her death because she was having trouble breathing, but medical staff found no major problems.

San Marcos police investigators relied on two autopsy reports from medical examiners in different counties -- the first listing the cause of death as undetermined and the second suggesting severe head trauma, although that examiner later said he was awaiting more evidence to make a final ruling.

The second examiner did not have access to the infant's brain -- a crucial piece of evidence, according to attorneys -- because it accidentally was discarded at a funeral home.

"(Police) really did not have good evidence to charge them in the first place," said Leslie Halasz, a lawyer from Texas representing Cipriano Gonzales. "This has been such a nightmare for Cipriano and Esther."

Halasz and another lawyer, Ken Houpp Jr., sought a hearing Tuesday to have the couple's \$500,000 bond reduced because a grand jury failed to indict them within 90 days of their arrest. But before the hearing started, the Hays County District Attorney's Office agreed to a personal recognizance bond and canceled the hearing.

"This is a pretty big win for our side," said Halasz, who planned to have the first medical examiner testify on his conclusion that a small skull fracture found on Cynthea's head would not have caused her death.

The couple is due back in court in early August for a probable cause hearing on the capital murder charge. Officials with the Hays County district attorney and San Marcos police could not be reached for comment.

Send e-mail to the author: jtunison@grpress.com

7/15/2006 11:00:00 AM

Suspect released on bond

Man believes child was coaxed into accusations

By Corky Emrick
Sturgis Journal

CONSTANTINE — A 49-year-old Constantine man has been released from the St. Joseph County jail after posting \$30,000 bond.

Douglas Aaron Holden of Constantine was released July 5. Holden was arrested June 22 and charged with three counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct.

Holden is accused of touching a 7-year-old child on three separate occasions.

According to a police report, the first attack took place around June 7, while the child was at a family member's home.

During their investigation, police learned the child was touched inappropriately on two other occasions.

All three instances occurred when Holden thought the child was sleeping, police said.

In a police interview, Holden denied touching the child, and said he believed she was coaxed into making the report.

Holden has been arraigned on the charges and waived his preliminary hearing.

Corky Emrick is a Journal staff writer. E-mail him at emrick@sturgisjournal.com.

Mother: Victims gypped at sentencing

By Steve Zucker News-Review staff writer

Tuesday, July 18, 2006 4:00 PM EDT

A plea agreement that led to a 10-month jail sentence for a former Emmet County man accused of molesting two young girls has left the girls' family feeling that the system has let them down.

"I feel that my girls were gypped. He raped my daughters and got away with it," the mother said. "They feel like everything was unfair."

Emmet County Prosecuting Attorney Jim Linderman acknowledged that the plea agreement in the case represents a significant reduction in the amount of possible prison time the man faced, but said there were many factors that played into his decision to offer the deal.

He said as the case progressed several issues arose that led him to have serious concerns about its strength.

Linderman said, based upon those concerns, he felt it was better to get at least one conviction against the man that would include at least some jail time, three years of probation and a requirement that his name appear on the state's sex offender registry, than to risk an across-the-board acquittal.

"There's a difference between allegations being made and proving them beyond a reasonable doubt," Linderman said.

Linderman said another factor in his decision is the cost that would have been involved in bringing several witnesses, including doctors, counselors and others, to Emmet County from South Carolina for a trial that he believed had a good chance of ending in acquittal.

But the mother of the girls involved in the case called Linderman's explanation "excuses."

As a policy, the News-Review does not identify victims in sexual assault cases. Additionally the newspaper does not publish the name of the defendant if there is a family or other relationship that's also likely to identify the alleged victim(s). In this case the defendant is the former stepfather of the victims.

The Emmet County Prosecutor's office originally charged the man with two counts of first degree criminal sexual conduct and one count of second degree criminal sexual conduct. The first two charges involved sexual penetration with someone under the age of 13 and is punishable by up to life in prison. The third charge involves sexual touching of a person under the age of 13 and carries a maximum penalty of up to 15 years in prison.

According to a Michigan State Police affidavit filed in the case, the alleged victims, now ages 11 and 9 told their mother and then later police “forensic interviewers” that sometime in the spring of 2000 their stepfather at the time had sex with them. At the time of the alleged incident the girls lived with the defendant and their mother in Emmet County. The mother and the defendant are now divorced. She and the girls moved to South Carolina in 2002.

The allegations came to light in 2004 and the man was charged and bound over to circuit court on the charges in April of 2005.

Emmet County Circuit Court Judge Charles W. Johnson handed down the sentence to the man Monday after he pleaded guilty earlier this year to a charge of attempted fourth degree criminal sexual conduct. The charge carries a maximum penalty of up to one year in jail.

Steve Zucker may be reached at 439-9346 or szucker@petoskeynews.com

THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

LETTERS

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Remember this judge's sentence for molester

Circuit Judge Melinda Morris sentences child molester James Robert Smith to one year in jail (not prison) for two counts of second degree criminal sexual conduct. Michigan law defines this as sexual contact (intentional touching of intimate parts or clothing covering intimate parts, for the purpose of sexual arousal or gratification) and in this case, victim is under 13. Judge Morris, by her own words, "design(ed) a sentence that's appropriate."

Appropriate, even though sentencing guidelines are from 29 to 57 months, but could be 15 years. Thanks to Judge Melinda Morris, this man will be back on the streets in less than a year. But have no fear, she's tough on crime! If he molests another elementary school child (his third!), she warned he would face the full 15 years.

When Judge Morris comes up for re-election, I hope Washtenaw County parents remember this decision.

Tom F. Krause, Brighton

Man's hearing delayed in severed arm case

By: Ray Kisonas, Monroe News
Story updated July 19, 2006 11:11AM

The man accused of causing his wife's arm to be severed when he drove off while she apparently was reaching inside the vehicle was in court briefly Tuesday for a hearing.

Stephen Humphrey, 39, of Romulus has been charged with drunken driving causing serious injury to his wife, Brenda, who survived the incident that occurred July 2 somewhere in Milan Township.

On Tuesday in First District Court, a preliminary examination was scheduled to be held before Judge Mark S. Braunlich, but the hearing was delayed until August.

Monroe County Assistant Prosecutor Dennis Ulrich asked for more time because he needed the testimony of the victim to proceed with the case. However, she remains hospitalized and is not expected to be released for at least another 30 days, he said in court. Mr. Ulrich also said he has not received blood-alcohol tests and was waiting for those.

Mr. Humphrey agreed to waive a rule that requires defendants to have a preliminary examination within 14 days of arrest. He is being held in the Monroe County jail on a \$100,000 bond.

He was in court during the hearing wearing a black-and-white striped jail uniform. Mr. Humphrey answered a few yes-and-no questions by the judge.

Monroe County sheriff's deputies reported the couple was drinking in a Milan bar when they began to argue. Mrs. Humphrey reportedly got out of the truck and tried to reach in for a cellular phone. Her husband of about three years allegedly drove off, and his wife's arm became tangled in the seat belt.

Deputies said she was dragged and her feet became caught beneath a tire, causing her arm to be severed between the shoulder and elbow. The arm never was recovered, and an exact location has not been determined. The couple has 1½-year-old twins.

Defense attorney John C. Gonta of Newport said Mr. Humphrey should be considered a hero for saving his wife's life. However, his client is not sure

what happened that night, he said, because of the trauma.

"He doesn't remember because it's so shocking," Mr. Gonta said after the hearing. "Is he sure how she lost her arm? No. He's in shock. It's a mystery."

A pretrial conference has been set for 1 p.m. Aug. 30 with the preliminary exam scheduled for 3 p.m. the following day.

Exam continues in August for woman held in murder

Monroe News story updated July 18. 2006 11:27AM

Murder suspect Melissa A. Castro-Davis of Monroe was in court for a brief hearing Monday that will be continued in August.

Ms. Castro-Davis, 46, of 704 Reisig St. is accused of shooting Phillip (Scotty) Gibson, 30, while he sat in a parked car July 2.

On Monday, Ms. Castro-Davis' preliminary exam began but only lasted a few moments. Only Monroe County Sheriff's Detective Dave Davison testified stating that he responded to a shooting at Reisig and E. Seventh Sts.

The exam is set to continue at 1:30 p.m. Aug. 23 in Judge Terrence Bronson's courtroom.

In a preliminary exam, a district judge decides whether the case should be sent to a higher court for trial.

Despite the hearing being brief, the court was packed with people. Some wore T-shirts with Mr. Gibson's image on them.

Mr. Gibson was the former boyfriend of Ms. Castro-Davis' daughter. Monroe police and sheriff's deputies said the shooting was the result of an ongoing domestic dispute. Police also have said that Ms. Castro-Davis arranged to meet Mr. Gibson before he was shot.

The case is being prosecuted by Monroe County Assistant Prosecutor Michael G. Roehrig. Ms. Castro-Davis is being defended by Southfield attorney Allan S. Rubin.

Violent attacks on homeless halted for now

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

By Kathy Jessup

kjessup@kalamazoogazette.com 388-8590

Stepped-up police presence is being credited with stopping attacks on homeless and vulnerable people in downtown Kalamazoo.

But Carl Paddock, a supervisor at the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission shelter, says he fears the violence is just on hold.

"The simple truth of it is, the police being around all the time will help," he said. "But they can't maintain a raised presence all the time."

Paddock said it will take at least one arrest, prosecution and stiff judicial consequences to significantly curb the brick and club attacks that homeless advocates say have averaged 15 to 20 a year over the last several summers.

The culprits, it's alleged, are bike-riding groups of young teenagers who encircle victims and beat them as part of a robbery or just for fun.

The Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety has run a number of plainclothes stings in recent weeks, trying to draw out the attackers. But the bait hasn't been taken, officers say.

"These kids can spot 'em. They need to get somebody from outside or they need to get a little dirtier and appear a little drunker," Paddock said of police.

"These kids are just waiting for the cops to get bored, and they'll be at it again."

Officials say the last reported attack occurred in late June when 45-year-old Ken Madison was attacked by young teens on bikes as he and two other homeless friends left a baseball game at Mayors' Riverfront Park. Madison said he fought back after being struck by a board. The attack left him with scalp staples, stitches and a bruised face.

The attackers fled before officers arrived. No arrests have been made in that case.

Paddock said that while he was working at the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission a month ago, three teens encircled him on bikes and demanded he turn over his mobile phone.

"I told them 'You try to get within arm's reach of me to take it' and they backed off because they knew I wasn't going to take it," Paddock said. "When they didn't get what they wanted from me, they started busting windows out of the building next door."

Advocates for the homeless want to discourage people from trying to take the law into their own hands by striking first at potential attackers.

“We don't want people to try to be heroic and feel they can stop these attacks ahead of time,” said Michael Evans, lead organizer for the Kalamazoo Homeless Action Network. “There is good police protection, and we want to work with police within the system.”

Evans said many of Kalamazoo's homeless have changed their solitary patterns and are more apt to walk in groups and sleep near others.

“You don't see individuals as much as you see two or three people together,” Evans said. “Clearly the word is out, and they think it's safer to be with other people.”

Evans said he is convinced that the stepped-up patrols have foiled attacks.

“Clearly there's been a very good police response to this issue,” he said. “The police and the City Commission have responded well, and they have taken the safety of the poorest and most vulnerable people real seriously. They deserve a lot of credit for that.”

Teen Heads To Jail For Guns At School

17-Year-Old Pleads Guilty

POSTED: 9:46 am EDT July 19, 2006

HOWELL, Mich. -- A former Pinckney High School student who pleaded guilty to charges he brought stolen guns to school has been sentenced to 60 days in jail and three years of probation.

Livingston County Circuit Judge David Reader sentenced Rush Dominic Richards, 17, on Monday under the Holmes Youthful Trainee Act, which allows the conviction to be wiped from Richards' record if he successfully completes his sentence.

Reader ordered Richards to serve his first 30 days after jail on an electronic tether and pay restitution of \$3,075 and other fines and court costs.

Richards had pleaded guilty to first-degree home invasion, receiving and concealing firearms, carrying concealed weapons and violation of a weapon-free school zone.

Authorities arrested Richards and a 16-year-old student in February after acting on an anonymous tip and finding stolen guns in a car parked at the school. Authorities said the guns were unloaded and the boys apparently had brought them to school to sell them but never intended to use them at the school.

One of the guns had come from the home of one of the teens, but the rest were taken in a break-in at a Putnam Township home, sheriff's officials said.

The boys were expelled from school after the incident.

The 16-year-old, who was charged as a juvenile, is scheduled for a conference in his case Sept. 18.

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Blaming welfare

July 18, 2006

Editor, The Saginaw News:

I agree to a point with the July 10 letter from Kevin J. Schultz, "Reform welfare."

Yes, we need to change our welfare system. The system now wants people to work, which they should. But when these people do work, they take half of their help away from them. Instead, they should tell them we will help you for a specific number of months. You should learn how to live on what you make after that time. Teach recipients how to save money.

Our state is in a budget crisis, but it doesn't have anything to do with people on welfare. It is our federal government that puts us there, and people like Republican gubernatorial candidate Dick DeVos and President George W. Bush who would rather close plants here and put people in the welfare line than hire them.

If it wasn't for the workers, the DeVos' of our country wouldn't have the money they do now.

Phyllis Hoseit

St. Charles

Study Documents ‘Ghetto Tax’ Being Paid by the Urban Poor

By ERIK ECKHOLM
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Published: July 19, 2006

WASHINGTON, July 18 — Drivers from low-income neighborhoods of New York, Hartford and Baltimore, insuring identical cars and with the same driving records as those from middle-class neighborhoods, paid \$400 more on average for a year’s insurance.

The poor are also the main customers for appliances and furniture at “rent to own” stores, where payments are stretched out at very high interest rates; in Wisconsin, a \$200 television can end up costing \$700.

Those were just two examples among several cited in a report Tuesday showing that poor urban residents frequently pay hundreds if not thousands of dollars a year in extra costs for everyday necessities. The study said some of the disparities were due to real differences in the cost of doing business in poor areas, some to predatory financial practices and some to consumer ignorance.

The study, from the Brookings Institution, said finding ways to eliminate these added costs, often called a “ghetto tax,” could be an important new front in the fight against poverty.

At a meeting connected with the report’s release, officials from three states — New York, Pennsylvania and Washington — said they were already doing just that through a variety of programs to draw banks to poor neighborhoods, help finance the construction of supermarkets and encourage innovative insurance schemes.

“There’s a large and for the most part overlooked opportunity here to help low-income families get ahead,” Matt Fellowes, the Brookings researcher who wrote the report, said in an interview. “That is to reduce their costs.”

Measures that reduced the price of essential goods and services for low-income Americans by just 1 percent would put an additional \$6.5 billion a year in their hands, said the report, titled “From Poverty, Opportunity.”

Sheldon H. Danziger, a poverty expert at the University of Michigan, noted that \$6.5 billion was roughly one-third the benefit the same families have gained through the earned-income tax credit. “Certainly these measures could be an important source of income,” Professor Danziger said of the report’s findings. “But I don’t see them as competing with things like raising the minimum wage, raising child subsidies and providing health insurance.”

Citing other examples of the ghetto tax, the report found that nationally, 4.5 million low-income customers, defined as families making less than \$30,000 a year, paid an average of two percentage points more for car loans than did middle-class buyers. And the common use of storefront check-cashing services by poor people, it said, comes at a steep price that varies with local regulations; in 12 cities studied, the fee for cashing a \$500 check ranged from \$5 to \$50.

Part of the problem, the study found, is a discrepancy between the poor and the middle class in consumer skills and mobility: people who comparison-shop, especially on the Internet, tend to pay hundreds less for the identical car than those who walk onto a city lot and buy.

But the disparities can be reduced, the report said, not only by consumer education but also by some combination of incentives to lure banks and stores into poor neighborhoods and tighter regulation on things like the fees of storefront lenders.

The New York State Banking Department has drawn major banks into underserved neighborhoods by placing deposits of government money, sometimes at below-market interest, in the new branches. These may enable more residents to open accounts and reduce reliance on costly check-cashers and lenders, said the state’s superintendent of banks, Diana L. Taylor.

In Pennsylvania, a program led by a Democratic state legislator, Dwight Evans, used state and private financing for construction of supermarkets in areas where residents had previously had to rely on costly small stores or drive long distances for groceries.

Washington State's insurance commissioner, Mike Kreidler, described efforts to restrict the use of personal credit scores by sellers of home and car insurance.

In a practice that has recently come into wide use in the industry, insurers study credit history to help judge the likelihood that a customer will file insurance claims; those with worse credit records are charged higher premiums, because, insurers say, the industry has found a correlation between poor ratings and the filing of claims.

But Mr. Kreidler and some consumer groups say that the insurers' approach is not transparent and consistent and that their method is likely to increase prices unfairly for poor people and minorities.

The insurance industry, on the other hand, argues that the new approach benefits many low-income consumers. "We think the use of credit scoring has allowed us to better serve urban areas," David F. Snyder, vice president of the American Insurance Association, said in an interview. Mr. Snyder said that with this more individualized tool, companies were less likely to raise rates for entire neighborhoods or categories.

National minimum wage must be increased to \$10 an hour

The minimum wage is disgracefully low, especially in this day and age. How can a family make ends meet on only \$5.15 an hour?

At 40 hours a week, this would only add up to \$10,712 a year. Conversely, we have members of Congress voting pay-raises for themselves. Do they really need incomes in six figures? What about those who struggle to make minimum wage?

The minimum wage needs to be increased to \$10 an hour which would translate to \$400 a week for a 40-hour week, which would translate to \$20,800 a year, if the worker does not work overtime.

Don't you think working-class citizens of our country deserve it? Believe me: I do!

ROBERT BROWN

Port Huron, July 12

Port Huron Times Herald

Originally published July 19, 2006

Unger Sentenced To Life In Prison

Huntington Woods Man Convicted Of Killing Wife At Resort

POSTED: 8:43 am EDT July 18, 2006

UPDATED: 7:02 pm EDT July 18, 2006

A Huntington Woods man convicted in the death of his wife was sentenced to life in prison on Tuesday.

Mark Unger (pictured) was found guilty last month of first-degree murder in the death of his wife, Florence Unger, while vacationing at a northern Michigan resort in 2003.

During the sentencing, Mark Unger spoke about the conviction, calling the verdict "ridiculous."

"I loved Flo," said Mark Unger. He said he would never do anything to harm his children or their mother.

Mark Unger said he has ample evidence of his innocence, including a lie detector test.

"I fully cooperated with any and all law enforcement operators that day," said Mark Unger. "I would never have hurt Flo."

Mark Unger said he will continue to fight for his sons and plans to appeal the conviction.

Florence Unger's body was found in lower Herring Lake in Benzie County. Prosecutors said she was pushed off a boathouse deck and was moved into the lake where she drowned.

Mark Unger claimed it was an accident.

A first-degree murder conviction carries a mandatory life sentence with no chance of parole.

The sentencing hearing was moved from Beulah to Manistee due to power outage caused from overnight storms.

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

A FATHER'S ANGUISH

Victim's dad confronts Unger

Mike Martindale/The Detroit News

MANISTEE -- *Harold Stern stood, his hands shaking as he addressed the man convicted of killing his daughter, Florence Unger, at a northern Michigan resort in 2003.*

"He's left society with the responsibility to pay for the clothing, housing and feeding of his worthless carcass," said Stern as his wife, Claire, stifled sobs a few feet away. "... He deserves to rot in prison for the rest of his life in this world and ... in eternal hell in the next."

Unger, a 45-year-old former mortgage banker from Huntington Woods, appeared before Benzie Circuit Judge James M. Batzer on Tuesday for his mandatory life prison sentence for first-degree premeditated murder.

In his impassioned statement Tuesday, Harold Stern called his son-in-law Mark Unger a cold-hearted, cruel "psychopathic mope," who schemed to murder Florence to keep the house and the children, collect on Florence's \$750,000 life insurance "blood money," keep his own \$10,000 a month "scam disability" and eventually inherit more than \$2 million from his mother's estate.

Unger's defense attorney, Robert S. Harrison, called it the "grossest miscarriage of justice" he has seen in his career.

Stern referred to his son-in-law's "despicable crime." Unger described himself as "wrongfully convicted" in a "ridiculous verdict."

But it was Batzer who had the final word, assessing Unger's conviction and the effect it has had beyond his own life.

"The defendant not only took the life of his wife but deprived the parents, brother and friends of her company," Batzer said. "He's deprived his own children of their mother and by his actions, has deprived the children of their father."

"Murder is something that's like Humpty Dumpty," said Batzer, referring to the children's nursery rhyme. "No one can put anything here back together again."

The Ungers were in the midst of a divorce in October 2003 when Unger suggested a weekend trip to the Inn of Watervale resort, on Lower Herring Lake about 10 miles south of Frankfort. Investigators said that the Ungers argued on a boathouse deck and Mark Unger forced his 37-year-old wife off the 12-foot-high platform. They said she struck a concrete slab, severely injuring her head, and he then dragged her immobile body into the lake, where she drowned. She was found the next morning.

In a packed courtroom and under heavy court security, Unger was escorted in blue suit, necktie and belly and leg chains. He looked gray, weary and without much of the

confidence displayed earlier during the eight weeks of trial that began in Benzie Circuit Court in Beulah on April 26.

Gone were the frequent smiles to familiar faces. Absent, too, were his mother, Bette Rosenthal, and two sisters, who were steadfast during weeks of often emotional, graphic testimony.

Harrison unsuccessfully argued for an acquittal or new trial for Unger based on his belief that the jury had erred in reaching its verdict and should have found reasonable doubt of Unger's guilt. Batzer disagreed and said there was sufficient evidence presented during the trial and noted jurors are free to agree with or ignore whatever witnesses they choose during a trial.

Unger spoke out in court about the charges against him and the verdict which will put him behind bars for the rest of his life with no chance of parole.

His sons, Max, 12, and Tyler, 10, have been placed in the temporary custody of the Sterns, who are expected to seek to adopt their grandchildren.

A hearing to end Unger's parental rights is pending in Oakland County Family Court.

"I was wrongfully convicted of this crime," said Unger, revealing he voluntarily took and passed a lie detector exam regarding the killing. Such tests are not admissible as evidence in court.

"I am innocent. I know and am confident that our appeal will overturn this wrongful conviction," Unger said.

"I'm hopeful I will one day again be able to hold my children in my arms. I will continue to fight for them because they do want their father back. They know it. I know it and most of all, Flo knows it."

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Published July 19, 2006
[From the Lansing State Journal]

Unger gets life in prison, with no parole

Victim's husband says he's innocent; appeal is planned

By John Flesher
Associated Press

MANISTEE - Claiming innocence to the end, Mark Unger was sentenced Tuesday to life in prison without parole for killing his estranged wife during a family outing at a northern Michigan resort nearly three years ago.

"Despite the ridiculous verdict in this case, my children know in their hearts that I loved Flo, that I love them and that I would never do anything to harm them or their mother," said Unger, 46, a suburban Detroit resident convicted of first-degree murder last month in the death of Florence Unger, 37.

But the victim's father, Harold Stern, denounced Mark Unger as a self-obsessed, immoral man and voiced regret that society would have "the burden of housing, clothing and feeding his worthless carcass."

"For his despicable crime, he deserves to rot in prison for the rest of his life in this world and ... in eternal hell in the next," Stern said as his wife, Claire, wept.

The trial was held in Benzie County Circuit Court in Beulah, but the sentencing hearing was in neighboring Manistee County.

Benzie County Circuit Judge James Batzer ordered a life term, mandatory under Michigan law for first-degree murder,

after denying Unger's motions to throw out the verdict or grant a new trial. Defense attorney

Robert Harrison pledged to appeal, acknowledging that murder convictions are seldom overturned.

"But this is not a typical case," he said. "This is a unique case, which means the normal odds don't apply."

Chief Prosecutor Donna Pendergast, an assistant state attorney general, said she was confident the verdict would stand.

"It was a clean trial," she said.

Florence Unger's body was found in Lower Herring Lake on Oct. 25, 2003. She fell from a rooftop deck apron 12 feet below and ended up in the water several feet away

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Michigan Report

July 18, 2006

COURT THROWS OUT CHALLENGE TO PATERNITY LAW

A challenge to the constitutionality of Michigan's paternity law has lost its first test effort in court. The U.S. District Court in Bay City rejected arguments that the law is unconstitutional because it compels a father to pay paternity even if he stipulated he did not want children.

Attorney General Mike Cox called the decision an "important victory for the children of this state. Both parents have a clear responsibility for the support of their child, no matter the circumstances surrounding conception."

In a decision rendered Monday in *Dubay v. Wells*, USDC case Number. 06-11016, Judge David Lawson ruled that because, as the plaintiff acknowledged, the state played no role in the conception of the child or in its delivery, the state does not violate the plaintiff's privacy in requiring support for the child.

The paternity act does not violate equal protection provisions under the U.S. Constitution, the decision held.

Mr. Cox has made boosting child support payments for children one of his primary goals.

With the ruling, Mr. Cox said: "Michigan will not become the state where parents can opt out of personal responsibility."

'Roe v. Wade' dad to fight

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

DARRYL Q. TUCKER
THE SAGINAW NEWS

BAY CITY -- A Saginaw Township man who initiated a paternity lawsuit that has generated nationwide publicity doesn't intend to let the matter drop even though a federal judge tossed the case out of court.

U.S. District Judge David M. Lawson on Tuesday dismissed the suit Matt Dubay filed against his former girlfriend, Lauren Wells, Saginaw County Prosecutor Michael D. Thomas and state Attorney General Mike Cox.

Dubay claimed Michigan's paternity law is unconstitutional because it compels the father to pay child support "even if he did not want the child to be born."

The lawsuit, known as Roe v. Wade for Men and filed in U.S. District Court in Bay City, named Thomas for his enforcement of the Paternity Act. Cox said he intervened in the case to uphold the Paternity Act and to protect Michigan's children.

Dubay, 25, a computer technician, and Wells, 20, a college student who works at a wireless telephone company, have a 1-year-old daughter, Elisabeth.

"I heard that the way the judge dismissed the case was sarcastic," said Dubay, who was not aware of the dismissal until he received a call from The Saginaw News on Tuesday afternoon. "I'm disappointed in the system for not taking it seriously."

Dubay said he is still waiting to learn more about what transpired in court and he doesn't intend to let the matter drop.

"We still have a few options," he said. "I'll discuss it with my lawyer and a few other people and hopefully we will come up with the best course of action. I don't feel that it should end right there. I feel it's a fair argument and I'd like to see it argued in court. I'm disappointed we didn't get that opportunity."

Dubay's suit, which garnered national media attention, claimed that Wells knew he didn't want to have a child and that she assured him repeatedly she could not get pregnant because of a medical condition.

If a pregnant woman can choose among abortion, adoption or raising a child, a man involved in an unintended pregnancy should have the choice of declining the financial responsibilities of fatherhood, Dubay claimed. He added that he could choose not to pay child support because he told Wells that he did not want a child when they dated.

Lawson, however, rejected Dubay's argument that Michigan's paternity law violates the U.S. Constitution's equal protection clause. He also called the suit "frivolous, unreasonable and without foundation."

Thomas said he was pleased with Lawson's ruling.

"It was kind of expected since there was no legal merit for it," Thomas said today. "It was a frivolous lawsuit. Children have to be supported by their parents. He is one of the parents."

The Saginaw News could not reach Wells, her attorney, Lawrence W. Smith, or Dubay's attorney, Jeffery A. Cojocar, for comment.

"This feels like the judge just slammed the door in Matt's face," said Mel Feit, director of the National Center for Men, a men's rights organization based in Long Island, N.Y., that joined in filing the lawsuit. "The case wasn't litigated. Shame on him for doing that. That showed bias against Matt.

"The people of the state of Michigan are deprived. They were entitled to hear the case."

Feit said he's going to talk to Dubay and his attorney to decide whether they will seek a reconsideration of Lawson's ruling or file another suit.

In February, Saginaw County Probate Judge Patrick J. McGraw ordered Dubay to pay \$500 in monthly child support to Wells and their daughter. Court files show that Dubay acknowledged paternity Aug. 24.

Cox applauded Lawson's ruling.

"This is an important victory for the children of this state," Cox said. "Both parents have a clear responsibility for the support of their child, no matter the circumstances surrounding conception. The court upheld that time-honored understanding. Michigan will not become the state where parents can opt out of personal responsibility."

Lawson wrote that "the fundamental flaw in Dubay's claim is that he fails to see that the state played no role in the conception of birth of the child in this case, or in the decisions that resulted in the birth of the child."

Darryl Q. Tucker and LaNia Coleman are staff writers for The Saginaw News. You may reach Tucker at 776-9686, Coleman at 776-9690.

MICHIGAN

Judge throws out challenge to paternity law

July 19, 2006

BY DAVID ASHENFELTER
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

A federal judge has summarily dismissed a lawsuit filed by a Saginaw man who challenged the constitutionality of Michigan's paternity law after his ex-girlfriend had a baby against his wishes.

"The court finds that the plaintiff's claim is frivolous, unreasonable and without foundation," U.S. District Judge David Lawson said in a decision Monday.

Lawson approved the Michigan Attorney General's request that the man, Matthew Dubay, pay the state's legal fees, expected to total thousands of dollars.

Dubay, 25, a computer programmer, sued in March after he was ordered to pay \$500 a month in child support for his ex-girlfriend's daughter. He said the woman, Lauren Wells, knew he didn't want to have children and that she assured him she couldn't have children.

Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox and Christina Grossi, who represented the Saginaw County Prosecutor, said they were pleased with the decision.

Mel Feit of the New York-based National Center for Men, which bankrolled the lawsuit, said he is disappointed that Lawson made the decision without a hearing or trial and ordered Dubay to pay the defendants' legal fees. Feit said it would discourage other men from filing similar challenges. He also said the group would try to raise money.

Published July 19, 2006
[From the Lansing State Journal]

Judge tosses out lawsuit from man contesting child support

Associated Press

A federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit filed by a men's rights group on behalf of a Saginaw County man who said he shouldn't have to pay child support for his ex-girlfriend's daughter. U.S. District Judge David Lawson in Bay City ruled Monday that Matthew Dubay's suit was frivolous and ordered him to pay attorney fees to the state.

Dubay, 25, of Saginaw Township, had said his ex-girlfriend, Lauren Wells, knew he didn't want to have a child and she assured him she couldn't get pregnant because of a medical condition. He argued that if a pregnant woman can choose among abortion, adoption or raising a child, a man involved in an unintended pregnancy should have the choice of declining the financial responsibilities of fatherhood.

But Lawson disagreed and rejected Dubay's argument that Michigan's paternity law violates the U.S. Constitution's equal protection clause.

"The fundamental flaw in Dubay's claim is that he fails to see that the state played no role in the conception or birth of the child in this case, or in the decisions that resulted in the birth of the child," Lawson wrote.

The National Center for Men in Old Bethpage, N.Y. - which prepared the suit - nicknamed it "Roe v. Wade for Men" because it involves the issue of male reproductive rights.

Dubay sued the Saginaw County prosecutor and Wells in March, contesting an order to pay

\$500 a month in child support for a girl born last year to Wells.

Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox later intervened in the case and argued for its dismissal.

"If chivalry is not dead, its viability is gravely imperiled by the plaintiff in this case," Lawson wrote.

Dubay earlier acknowledged the suit was a long shot.

A message seeking comment was left with his lawyer after work hours Tuesday.

Courts: State Paternity Law Constitutional

MIRS, Tuesday, July 18, 2006

Today, the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, ruled that the state's child support law, which requires fathers to pay for child support even if they never wanted the child to be born, is constitutional.

The court made the ruling in *Dubay vs. Wells, Thomas and Cox*. Matthew **DUBAY** had sued the state for requiring that he pay child support even though he did not want his child to be born.

"The fundamental flaw in Dubay's claim is that he fails to see that the state played no role in the conception or birth of the child in this case, or in the decisions that resulted in the birth of the child," the court ruled.

News Release

Contact: Stepheni Schlinker or Maureen Sorbet (517) 373-7394

Child support payments in southern Michigan counties going electronic

July 18, 2006

LANSING – The Department of Human Services' Office of Child Support, in coordination with seven Friends of the Court offices in southern Michigan counties, will begin disbursing some child support payments through a debit card beginning July 24, 2006. A new law requires all child support payments to be electronically disbursed via direct deposit into a personal checking/savings account or to a debit card, unless recipients meet hardship exception criteria.

The program is being implemented through a rollout process. Forty-five counties have already transitioned to electronic disbursement. In July Berrien, Branch, Cass, Hillsdale, Lenawee, Saint Joseph and Van Buren Counties will implement the program.

Customers who currently receive paper checks in these counties have received information in the mail and were given the choice of direct deposit to their checking/savings account or to a debit card. Paper child support checks will no longer be sent out to customers unless they meet the hardship exceptions described in the law.

Before implementation of the law about 30 percent of child support recipients in the state had their payments directly deposited into their personal checking or savings account. Customers currently participating in direct deposit are not required to switch to the debit card.

The new VISA debit cards, which will be issued at no cost to the customer, can be used like any other bank or credit union debit card at millions of locations that accept VISA debit cards - without incurring any fees. Customers can also get cash back with purchases from any of over 29,000 Interlink merchants in Michigan – again without fees. Customers choosing to access debit card funds using an automated teller machine (ATM) will be subject to ATM fees.

In states with electronic disbursement already in place, about two-thirds choose direct deposit to checking/savings and one-third choose direct deposit to debit cards.

Attached to this press release is an overview of electronic disbursement and a statewide implementation schedule.

For more information on electronic disbursement of child support go to the child support section of the DHS Web site, www.michigan.gov/dhs or to www.misdu.com.

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This Week APHSA in Washington

For the week ending 7/14/2006, Vol. XXVII, No. 19

- CMS Releases Regulation on Medicaid Citizenship Documentation Requirements
- President Signs Interstate Compact Bill into Law
- Senate Passes Workforce Investment Act Amendments
- Senate Votes to Allow Americans to Purchase Prescription Drugs from Canada
- Bipartisan Group of Senators Urges Administration to Drop Medicaid Cuts
- HHS Approves Child Care Waivers for States Recovering from Hurricanes
- HHS Announces Additional Funding for State and Local Pandemic Planning
- GAO Report Criticizes CSBG Oversight

CMS Releases Regulation on Medicaid Citizenship Documentation Requirements

On July 12, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published in the *Federal Register* an Interim Final Regulation implementing the citizenship documentation requirements of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA). The regulations clarify that the documentation requirements do not apply to the dually eligible Supplemental Security Income and Medicare populations, nor to those defined as presumptively eligible (pregnant women and children). The rule also specifies that children in foster care who are categorically eligible for Medicaid can be considered recipients instead of applicants for purposes of citizenship and identity documentation. Dennis Smith, director of the Center for Medicaid and State Operations at CMS, reiterated this distinction at a session on the subject held July 11 during APHSA's Summer Meeting. The regulations also expand the options for data matching, which include but are not limited to cross matches with the following programs: food stamps; child support; corrections, including juvenile detention; motor vehicles; or child protective services. With regard to documentation, states must review originals or copies certified by the issuing agency, and must maintain copies in the case record or in a database. The copies maintained in the case file may be electronic records of matches, or other electronic methods of storing information. To be assured of consideration, comments on the regulation must be received by August 11, 2006. The regulation is available online [here](#).

President Signs Interstate Compact Bill into Law

On July 3, President Bush signed into law H.R. 5403, the Safe and Timely Interstate Placement of Foster Children Act of 2006. The law (P.L. 109-239) creates new rules for the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC), including a Title IV-E state plan requirement to conduct and report the results of requested home studies within 60 days (except that states, through September 2008, may extend the limit by 15 days if the state can demonstrate extenuating circumstances). The bill also provides incentive payments of \$1,500 for each home study completed within 30 days and a requirement for interstate cases that ongoing visitation must take place every six months. The law becomes effective October 1, 2006, and applies to payments made under Titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act. Also present at the signing ceremony were former Rep. Tom Delay (R-Texas), Rep. Wally Herger (R-Calif.), Sen. Mike DeWine (R-Ohio), and U.S. Secretary of Health and Human

Services (HHS) Michael Leavitt. More details are available [here](#) . The final version of the law is available [here](#).

Senate Passes Workforce Investment Act Amendments

On June 29, the Senate approved the Workforce Investment Act of 2005 (S. 1021) by unanimous consent. The legislation reauthorizes the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA), which was enacted to create a streamlined workforce development system that could effectively respond to the needs of workers and employers, while addressing other concerns. The legislation includes changes that supporters say will ease implementation; foster a more comprehensive, high-quality workforce investment system; encourage creative approaches to serving workers and large and small businesses; improve access to services; and expand opportunities for education and training. S. 1021 makes provisions to amend and reauthorize WIA, the Wagner-Peyser Act, the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The measure would revise and reauthorize WIA, which was authorized through 2005. These programs received appropriations totaling \$5.3 billion for fiscal year 2005 and \$2.5 billion for FY 2006. The 2006 amounts represent funding for program year 2005 made available in FY 2006. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that authorizations under Title I would total \$5.4 billion in FY 2006 and about \$27.6 billion over the 2006-2010 period. The bill text is available [here](#).

Senate Votes to Allow Americans to Purchase Prescription Drugs from Canada

On July 11, the Senate voted 68-32 to approve an amendment to the FY 2007 Homeland Security appropriations bill allowing individuals to buy Food and Drug Administration-approved prescriptions drugs from Canada . The amendment (S.Amdt. 4548) was introduced by Sen. David Vitter (R-La.) and prohibits U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agents from seizing such drugs. An original bill introduced by Vitter did not specify from which countries Americans were allowed to purchase drugs, but the amendment was modified to allow only Canadian importation in response to security concerns. The House will consider a similar provision. The text of the amendment is available [here](#).

Bipartisan Group of Senators Urges Administration to Drop Medicaid Cuts

On June 29, a bipartisan group of 44 senators (27 Democrats and 17 Republicans) sent a letter to HHS Secretary Michael Leavitt urging the administration not to follow through with its proposed \$12.2 billion cut to Medicaid over five years. The group, led by Sens. Gordon Smith (R-Ore.) and Max Baucus (D-Mont.), raised concern that the cuts would reduce funding for long-term care programs, particularly those in rural areas, and cause harm to the elderly and individuals with disabilities. The proposed changes would come in the form of reducing allowable provider taxes from 6 percent to 3 percent. The administration plan also includes lower provider reimbursement rates for services to Medicaid beneficiaries. The letter promotes instead efforts to improve Medicaid efficiency through better coordination of care, information technology, and decreasing the number of medical errors.

HHS Approves Child Care Waivers for States Recovering from Hurricanes

On July 11, HHS announced approval of waivers for Louisiana , Mississippi , and Texas that will allow the states to access child care funds without a state match. The waivers were authorized in the FY 2006 Department of Defense Appropriations bill (P.L. 109-148), as part of a package of Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) provisions intended to help states recovering from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita provide child care for evacuees and other affected families. The waivers will allow these three states to access a total of \$60 million in CCDF funding with no obligation to meet state matching requirements. Louisiana will receive \$27 million; Mississippi will receive \$2 million; and Texas will receive \$31 million. More information is available [here](#).

HHS Announces Additional Funding for State and Local Pandemic Planning

On July 11, HHS announced an additional \$225 million in funding for state and local pandemic

preparedness efforts. The funding is part of \$350 million included in recent appropriations for upgrading state and local pandemic influenza preparedness passed by Congress last December. In February 2006, HHS awarded \$100 million to states for planning and exercising of pandemic response plans, as well as to identify gaps in preparedness. The \$225 million represents the second phase of funding, and is being awarded to address the identified gaps in preparedness planning. The grants will be awarded to all 50 states, the District of Columbia , three local jurisdictions (New York City , Chicago , and Los Angeles County), five U.S. territories, and three Freely Associated States of the Pacific. More information is available at [here](#).

GAO Report Criticizes CSBG Oversight

On June 29, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report saying that the Office of Community Service (OCS) lacked effective policies, procedures, and controls to help ensure that it met legal requirements for monitoring states and internal control standards. GAO also said that OCS did not collect key information or systematically use available information to assess the states' Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) management risks and target monitoring efforts to states with the highest risk. The report provides information on federal compliance with federal laws and standards in overseeing states; five states' efforts to monitor local agencies; and federal CSBG training and technical assistance funds targeted to local agencies with problems, and the results of the assistance. GAO recommends that the HHS assistant secretary for children and families direct OCS to conduct a risk-based assessment of state CSBG programs; have policies and procedures to help ensure monitoring focuses on states with the highest risk; issue guidance on state monitoring requirements and training and technical assistance reporting; and implement a strategic plan to guide its training and technical assistance efforts. OCS has responded that it intends to take action to address each of these suggestions. The full report is available [here](#).